

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
NORTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE**



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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**DECISION NOTICE
FOOTHILLS TIMBER SALE**

March 28, 2006

INTRODUCTION

I have reviewed all the information and comments received during the preparation of the Foothills Timber Sale. I have also reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), including comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the responses to those comments.

I have compared the alternatives to the project objectives and evaluated their advantages and disadvantages.

I have reviewed each identified issue and the analysis of environmental effects for each alternative displayed in the FEIS.

I have carefully reviewed the proposed decision in the FEIS to ensure pertinent State laws, rules, and the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) have been put into practice.

DECISION

I have chosen to implement Action Alternative B, High Salvage, as described under PROPOSED DECISION (FEIS, pages 7 through 9). As displayed in Table 2-2 of the DEIS, Summary Comparison of Achievement of Project Objectives (DEIS, page 22), Action Alternative B meets the purpose and objectives of the project. The proposed mitigation measures are adequate and feasible.

The rationale for choosing Action Alternative B is adequately explained in the PROPOSED DECISION on pages 7 through 9 of the FEIS.

I believe the potential environmental effects of the alternatives were adequately identified and analyzed in the FEIS.

The FEIS, DEIS, and other pertinent information about this project are posted and available for reference at the DNRC website: http://dnrc.mt.gov/env_docs/foothills/default.asp.

Upon execution of the decision, I will recommend that the Foothills Timber Sale Contract be submitted to the board of Land Commissioners for approval. This should occur at their regularly scheduled meeting in May 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Pontin".

Greg Pontin
Kalispell Unit Manager
Northwestern Land Office